

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 EB-07

AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 OIC-02 /109 W

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P R 291510Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8705

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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USMTN USEEC ACTION STR, H PASS CODEL, STR PASS POMERANZ,
COMMERCE PASS PRUIETT

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD MTN

SUBJ: INFORMAL PLURILATERAL MEETING ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT,
JUNE 27, 1977

REF: A. GENEVA 4855, B. STATE 128995

1. SUMMARY: MAJOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (US, CANADA, EC, NORDICS,
SWISS, JAPAN) HELD INFORMAL PLURILATERAL SESSION TO DISCUSS ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR THE NEXT STEPS IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT NEGOTIATIONS.
PARTICIPANTS REAFFIRMED DECISION TO HOLD SERIES OF INFORMAL PLURI-
LATERAL SESSIONS TO DRAFT TEXTS ON MAJOR GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT
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ISSUE WHERE CONSENSUS EXISTS. FIRST MEETING WILL BE HELD WEEK OF
JULY 18 ON FRINGES OF GROUP AGRICULTURE AND NTM PARENT GROUP
MEETINGS. END SUMMARY

2. MEETING HELD AS FOLLOW-UP TO INFORMAL SESSION HELD DURING LAST
GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT (GP) MEETING (REFTEL A). CANADIAN MTN DEL
(CLARK) OPENED MEETING BY GIVING GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HE

FELT MAJOR DELS HAD AGREED UPON FOR PLURILATERAL MEETINGS. US MTN DEL (NEWKIRK) FOLLOWED WITH A GENERAL OUTLINE OF HOW WE ENVISAGED THESE PLURILATERAL SESSIONS PROCEEDING AND URGED THA THE FIRST SESSIONS FOCUS ON THE LESS CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES (REF B). THE SWISS, NORDICS, CANADIANS, AND EC STATED STRONG PREFERENCE TO TACKLE EASIER ISSUES FIRST AND AGREED WITH US SUGGESTION THAT THE GP NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD PROCEED ON A TWO-STAGE APPROACH, LEAVING NEGOTIATIONS ON COVERAGE UNTIL AFTER A NEGOTIATING TEXT IS DEVELOPED. THE EC (DUGIMONT) POINTED OUT THAT THE OECD DRAFT HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTABLE TO THE LDCS AND WE MUST BE VERY CAREFUL IN PRESENTING ANYTHING AGREED UPON IN THE PLURILATERAL SESSIONS TO AVOID A SIMILAR FATE. BOTH THE SWISS AND NORDICS AGREED WITH THE LATTER POINT, WITH THE SWISS FEELING THAT CERTAIN LDCS BE INVOLVED IN THE INFORMAL MEETINGS AT SOME POINT.

3. JAPANESE DEL (TERADA) STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS STILL IN PROCESS OF GOING THROUGH PARA-BY-PARA EXAMINATION OF OECD DRAFT, AND AT THIS STAGE WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE COMMENTS ONLY ON THE BASIS OF THE OECD DRAFT. HE EXPECTED THIS PROCESS TO BE CONCLUDED THIS SUMMER. TERADA DID INDICATE WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS OTHER DRAFTS (I.E. THE CANADIAN EFFORT) IN RELATION TO OECD TEXTS.

4. THE CANADIANS PROMISED TO HAVE AVAILABLE BEFORE THE END OF THIS WEEK A REDRAFT OF THEIR EARLIER DRAFT, INCORPORATING COMMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS DELEGATIONS. THE EC PROMISED TO HAVE COMPROMISE LANGUAGE ON TWO ISSUES, TRANSPARENCY (EX-POST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMATION) AND BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS FOR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT READY FOR DISTRIBUTION BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER. THE SWISS OFFERED WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS TO DO PAPERS ON EX-POST PUBLICITY, SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT, AND ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF THIS CODE WITH THE GATT. THEY SEE THE LATTER PAPER AS POSSIBLY BEING HELPFUL IN OTHER MTN GROUPS AS WELL. NEITHER THE NORDICS NOR THE US OFFERED TO DO ANY PAPERS AT THIS TIME, BUT STATED WILLINGNESS TO DO SO IF NEED ARISES. THE US INDICATED OTHER TOPICS, SUCH AS FINAL PROVISIONS AND NATIONAL SECURITY BE CONSIDERED AT A LATER DATE.

6. ALL PARTICIPANTS AGREED WITH CANADIAN SUGGESTION THAT ONE MEETING SHOULD BE HELD PRIOR TO SUMMER BREAK. THIS MEETING WOULD INCLUDE A DISCUSSION ON NATIONAL TREATMENT NONDISCRIMINATION AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS, AND MIGHT INVOLVE AN ATTEMPT TO DRAFT PARAGRAPHS ON AREAS OF CONSENSUS. SHOULD TIME PERMIT, SOME DELEGATIONS INDICATED A DESIRE TO HAVE A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF THOUGHTS ON SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT. FURTHER MEETINGS ARE ENVISAGED TO BE INDEPTH DISCUSSIONS ON EACH INDIVIDUAL ITEM UNTIL CONSENSUS OR NONCONSENSUS IS REACHED.

7. ATTITUDE OF PARTICIPANTS AT MEETING WAS POSITIVE AND GENERALLY

OPTIMISTIC. ALL DELEGATIONS EXCEPT JAPAN APPEAR ANXIOUS TO BEGIN
SERIOUS WORK IN THIS AREA AND HOPEFULLY AGREE ON CONSENSUS ON SOME
DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR TABLING AT NOVEMBER SUBGROUP MEETING. MTN DEL
WILL UTILIZE INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM INSTRUCTIONS IN PREVIOUS
GP MEETINGS ON NONDISCRIMINATION/NATIONAL TREATMENT AND TECHNICAL
SPECIFICATIONS, UNLESS US POSITION HAS CHANGED ON EITHER OF THESE
AREAS.CULBERT

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Disposition History: n/a
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